

**173<sup>rd</sup> Mid-Winter Conference Minutes**  
**13 – 15 January 2012**  
**Phoenix, AZ**

Meeting was called to order by President Roy Scott. The Pledge of Allegiance, lead by Pappy Patchin, to the US Flag was followed by the Invocation lead by the Chaplain, Joe Marquez. Roll call was then taken to determine if a quorum was present. Results follow:

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Attendee</b>
<b>1 / Wash DC</b>		X	Terry Modglin	
<b>2 / New York</b>	X		Thomas McMahon	Thomas McMahon
<b>3 / Georgia</b>	X		Art Van Allen	Dave Santini
<b>4 / Philadelphia</b>	X		George Bembischew	Eric Hitchcock
<b>5 / Fort Bragg</b>		X	Jose Bercedoni	
<b>6 / Chicago</b>	X		Takie Mandakas	Takie Mandakas
<b>7 / Florida</b>	X		Jim Bradley	Jim Bradley
<b>8 / Inland NW</b>	X		Ken Ackland	Eldon Meade
<b>9 / New England</b>	X		Peter Klausner	Paul Denardo
<b>10 / Northern CA</b>		X	JC Terry	
<b>11 / New South Wales</b>	X		Bob Cockerill	Ray Payne
<b>13 / Texas</b>	X		Augustin Soto	Gary Granade
<b>14 / Southern CA</b>	X		Wambi Cook	Wambi Cook
<b>15 / Minneapolis</b>	X		Trudell Guerue	Trudell Guerue
<b>16 / Washington ST</b>	X		Chris Clewell	Craig Ford
<b>17 / Midwest</b>	X		David Carmon	David Carmon
<b>18 / Oklahoma</b>		X	Don Walton	
<b>19 / New Zealand</b>	X		John Deazley	Ray Payne
<b>23 / Queensland</b>	X		Graham Woodward	Ray Payne
<b>24 / Rochester, MN</b>	X		Floyd Riestler	Sam Maslowski
<b>25 / Phoenix</b>	X		Bob Madden	Bob Madden
<b>27 / Southern States, Australia</b>	X		A.B. Garcia	Ray Payne / Pappy Patchin
<b>28 / San Diego</b>		X	Gilbert Reynoso	
<b>30 / South Carolina</b>	X		James Beacham	Joe Marquez
<b>173 / Europe</b>		X	Samuel Coston	
<b>President</b>	X		Roy Scott	Roy Scott
<b>Vice-President</b>	X		Ken Cox	Ken Cox
<b>Treasurer</b>	X		Roger Conley	Roger Conley
<b>Secretary</b>	X		Tim Austin	Tim Austin
<b>JAG</b>		X	William Vose	
<b>Chaplain</b>	X		Joe Marquez	Joe Marquez
<b>Gold Star</b>		X	Debora Yashinski	
<b>Sergeant-At-Army</b>	X		Pappy Patchin	Pappy Patchin
<b>Foundation</b>	X		Eric Hitchcock	Eric Hitchcock

A quorum was present so the meeting began.

The President and Vice President made their opening remarks. The treasurer presented his remarks and the financial statement. Consolidation of all accounts is still not complete. This is planned on being completed within thirty days of this meeting. He told us the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Association and the Foundation are both 501C's. This is why there are two different accounts for them. He is getting with the webmaster to post the financial report each month on the web site that will be accessible by each Chapter. Thomas McMahon made the motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Craig Ford. The motion passed. It was then asked if we need a financial report from the Australia chapters and it was determined we did not.

Eric Hitchcock gave the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Foundation report. Bill Vose is the man that is in charge of the scholarships. He was asked if there is a list of programs the Foundation supports. He said there is no formal list, but he will get one to present. He encouraged each chapter to have one event per year to raise money to support the Foundation. They supported a Wounded Warriors Weekend in Kemah, Texas where 100 wounded soldiers, stationed at Brooks Hospital at Fort Sam Houston, were brought for a fabulous weekend.

Craig Ford then gave a report for the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation. This is the group that led to the establishment of the Memorial at Fort Benning, Ga. He told about the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration that will be held there at Fort Benning and coincide with the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade jump into Iraq. It will be 21 – 24 March 2012. They have added Jim Yarbrough to their board of directors. He said they are trying to get with the two living Medal of Honor winners the Brigade has to see if they will be supportive of this effort.

Ray Payne from the Southern hemisphere then gave a report from the chapters in Australia and New Zealand. They remain very supportive of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade, the Association, and the 1RAR (Royal Australia Regiment). The 1RAR just returned from Afghanistan and are currently on leave, but the chapters “down under” supported them by sending them packages while they were “down range”. They do plan on having a large showing at the 2013 reunion in Las Vegas.

The Gold Star report was given by Roy Scott. He told us Mommaski is trying to get a replacement. Robert Lemiller and his family will be taking over at the 2013 reunion. Mommaski is adding all family members, brothers, sisters, etc., so they will be added to our data base in case they wish to join the association. Each chapter should remain in contact with the spouse or parents after the death of a Sky Soldier.

Then the question was asked to Roy, why Bradley's announcement to run for Vice President was removed from the magazine. The answer was because it was not submitted to the candidate committee 30 days prior to going into the Magazine. After much discussion it was determined that a committee had not been appointed, so the information should have gone to the President. The President has appointed a committee and believes he was within the by-laws by removing the nomination until the committee has established the credibility of the candidates. It was determined the Executive Board was remiss in not having a committee appointed. Paul Dinardo, made a motion to allow the committee to find the candidates because the Board of Directors and Executive Boards were remiss in not having a committee, and to allow an additional 90 days to find candidates. It was seconded by Dave Carmon. Jim Bradley, Gary Granade and Wambi Cook made comments and the motion was voted upon. It passed. The 90 days end 15 March 2012.

We broke for lunch.

Returned from lunch. Our New York president was successful in having a pretty young lady join us for lunch. Her name was Julie Wysong. Turns out she was there to give us a presentation from Armed Forces Reunions (AFR). Her information was well received. She was trying to set up the reunions for us. When asked the question "Have you had any reunions stay at the hotel we stayed in this summer in San Antonio, the answer was yes, her company did have one this past summer in San Antonio at the same hotel. It cost us \$125 per night plus taxes. The cost AFR got was \$115 per night including taxes. All were impressed and thought it something to aid in planning a reunion.

Jim Bradley gave a presentation on the web site. It was very good and thorough. The web site is a very good one and still has many possibilities. The magazine will be placed on the web site in the members section so it will be accessible to all current members. Some might wish to view it there and not have a copy sent them. Anyone who does not know their password or login may contact him or the Association Secretary. Jim has done a tremendous job with the web site. Thank you Jim.

New Business:

The "Static Line" Magazine – Roy Scott and Tim Austin will be the contact for this publication. We are hoping to have our events posted in this publication. Each chapter needs to get a nominee for the 173<sup>rd</sup> Man of the Year award the "Static Line" awards yearly. Our last man was Harold Brent from the Texas Chapter, and that was in 2010. For the nominee to be considered he must be able and plan on attending the banquet in Atlanta which is normally in April at his own expense. He must be there to accept the award. They normally have between 300 and 500 attend, it is a formal event. We would like the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Foundation and the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation to submit articles for the magazine, at least once a year, or when wanted.

Roy presented a concept for a raffle for the Association to do yearly as a fund raiser. Currently there are no means of raising funds for the association other than someone joining the association. He told of other like organizations that do this. He showed what the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association does. All members are sent a packet of tickets, eight with a letter explaining them. The members then send in \$20 for all the tickets, and the ticket stubs to be entered into the drawing. The drawing is held at the annual reunion. Craig Ford brought up that in Washington these things have to have a numbered ticket. Trudell Guerue said since it does not originate in the state, but is a national organization and distribution; it does not follow state laws. We currently have about 3700 active members, and if a third of them send in the \$20.00 it will boast the income of the association which can fund the Foundation which pays the scholarships and the wounded warrior members and the Gold Star area. Thomas McMahon made a motion to conduct a yearly raffle as specified in the presentation. Takie Mandakas seconded it, and the motion passed. The vote was 12 for the raffle and 6 against. The winners will be paid \$600 each. This passes the IRS ruling on gambling as the amount cannot exceed 300 % of the amount sent in.

Roy proposed we have an audit for the new treasurer to start off from a known position. Craig Ford made a motion for the Association to have an audit. Sam Maslowski seconded the motion. It was passed by all present.

Chapter 9 asked for the rights to all of Canada and Alaska for their members. This was discussed. The final thoughts were there are no boundaries for the chapters. A member may join any chapter he wishes and so there is no need for boundaries. Many chapters currently have members from geographic areas that are not close to their chapter, and so all thought it not prudent to have boundaries.

Roy then told us about the current Brigade members. The members of the Brigade that made the jump into Iraq are going to have a reunion this March in Colorado Springs. They have invited Roy and he is in hopes of getting them to join us in the Association.

Chapter 20 ex-member Dave Watson has requested the chapter be re-instated. It was decided by all present that they just need to follow the by-laws and do whatever it takes to form a new chapter. Jim Bradley made a motion that they follow the by-laws as written to form a new chapter. It was seconded by Craig Ford. It was voted on and passed.

Joe Marquez gave a presentation on PTSD and the wonderful book "Down Range – To Iraq and Back". It is available for paying postage through the Purple Heart.org on line.

Thomas McMahon asked how, or if any other chapters were having difficulty in obtaining members of the 173<sup>rd</sup> who are in the wounded warrior program or who were wounded. He stated they have tried to get a list of Brigade members from the local VA so they could assist these personnel, but have not had any success with the liaison sergeant at the hospital. It is tragic we cannot get who the Wounded Warriors are. This was agreed by Gary Granade that they had the same problem at Fort Sam Houston, but the liaison sergeant there was helpful because one of the retired guys in Chapter 13, a retired Sergeant Major, knew the hospital Sergeant Major and they worked it out. Seems there is no way for this information to be obtained. All agreed it was very frustrating.

Tom McMahon told us he has a procedure for what to do at funeral homes or at funerals for Brigade members. He is willing to share that with any chapter that wishes.

Ken Cox brought up the fact that we need to do something about funding. The talk was about changing the life membership from the current \$173 to a higher rate that could be phased in over a few years. It was determined we will not change any of the membership fees, either yearly or life-time. We will first contact the active duty unit to see what they will support, if anything.

Takie Mandakas made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Jim Bradley and passed.

Saturday meeting was adjourned at 1640 hours.

Sunday, meeting started at 0930 hours.

Bob Madden started us off with the introduction of Chapter 25s treasurer, Chuck Cean who was present for both days, as were others from Chapter 25. They were great hosts.

Ken Cox gave a talk to start the morning session off.

Secretary Tim Austin then asked for guidance from the chapter presidents. Craig McLaren has contacted him for the address of the chapter presidents so he can contact them to sell his leather items. Bob Madden said to send him his contact information. Jim Bradley told about the items Craig makes for sell. The Secretary was tasked with writing an article about his wares for the Magazine so all could know about his products.

Roger Conley is going to shop around for better prices in publishing our magazine and getting the best price on the audit that will come up. He also gave a Statement of Activities and a Statement of Financial Position, enclosure A.

Then we talked about a way to get the "Sky Soldier" to the soldiers when they are down range. Instead of sending the product to the individual, because they normally are not delivered, to send bulk to the lowest level possible. Not just Brigade, but Battalion, and Company level, and if we can get the address, down to Platoon and hopefully Squad level so the soldier may have a better chance of getting the magazine.

Wambi Cook has been trying to get a roster for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. He will be contacting Peter Klausner and Dennis Hill for their assistance.

Roy Scott gave a presentation on the reunion in Lexington, KY that will be held 6 – 10 June 2012. One of the side trips will be to Frankfort, KY to see the Vietnam Memorial. It was built up to be great. It is designed like a sun dial, and as the shadow passes a name, it is the time of day that person was killed. It sounds like a great thing to see. We will be staying at the Hyatt Regency and Blue Grass Tours will handle any and all tours anyone wishes to go on. Some of them will be to see some of the famous horse farms of Kentucky. The Board of Directors meeting will be Friday morning. The General Membership meeting will be Saturday. There will also be a golf tournament for those interested. The Saturday night function will be semi-formal. As of the first week of January there have been 50 registrations. Ray Payne did not have any thoughts as to how many will be attending from Australia or New Zealand. He said there will be many there for the 2013 reunion.

Thomas McMahon asked where one could obtain the morning reports of the time we were in Vietnam. Jim Bradley said he had the information of where to go and whom to see and would get that information to Thomas.

Jim Bradley then gave a presentation on the 2013 reunion. He said their mission was to keep the cost low. Accordingly they chose the Orleans Hotel which is just off the strip. It has 12 restaurants of different ethnic foods, a large bowling alley, a movie theater, an award winning buffet, and all the meeting rooms will be large enough to accommodate all of our meetings, to include the Saturday night function. Parking is free, and they even have places to park RV's. The cost for 4 days and 5 nights is under \$300. It will be the last week of August, 2013. More information will be on the web site as soon as the 2012 reunion is complete.

Wambi Cook then made a motion to have the next Mid-Winter Conference at the place where the reunion will be held. This was seconded by Craig Ford. It passed.

Joe Marquez then dismissed us with a word of prayer.

Mid-Winter Conference of 2012 ended at 1100 hours.